(b) if so, the steps being taken to tap these resources and provide drinking water to the villages of these areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Yes, Sir. Central Water Commission has assessed the availability of water resources in the 99 drought prone districts of the country.

(b) 'Water' being a State subject, projects are formulated by State Governments to tap water resources to provide drinking water facilities in the regions where it is considered essential including drought prone areas.

In order to supplement the efforts of the State Governments in drinking water supply to villages, Central Government provides funds by way of 100 per cent grants under Centrally sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme.

Community Irrigation Project

1035. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to promote Community Irrigation Project;

(b) if so, the steps taken in this direction in the last three years;

(c) whether the list of Central funding of such projects in Ninth Five Year Plan has been finalised; and

(d) if so, the number of Community Irrigation Projects proposed to be executed in Orissa in that Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) The Minsitry of Water resources has no proposal at present to promote Community Irrigation Projects, However, under the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment a Centrally sponsored scheme namely, Ganga Kalyan Yojana to provide irrigation through exploitation of Ground Water (Bore wells and Tubewells) to individuals and groups of samll and marginal farmers living below poverty line is in operation.

(b) the Ganga Kalyan Yojana which was started with effect from 1st February, 1997 under Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), is now being implemented as an independent scheme from 1997-98. Yearwise Central releases for last two years are as follows:—

(i) 1996-97	Rs. 90.82 crore
(ii) 1997-98	Rs. 100.00 crore

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise with reference to (c) above.

Funds for sinking of artesian wells in Gujarat

1036. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have provided funds to Gujarat Government for sinking of artesian wells for cultivation in dry parts of the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years, year-wise, and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and whether Government propose to provide funds to the State for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) The Central Government do not have any scheme under which funds could be provided to the Government of Gujarat for sinking of artesian wells for cultivation in dry parts of State.

Linking of rivers in the country

1037. SHRI RAHAS BIHARI BARIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to link all rivers in the country together;

(b) if so, whether any committee has been constituted by Government to formulate the proposal; and

(c) if so, the details of the committees constituted so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) Ministry of Water Resources (erstwhile Ministry of Irrigation) and Central Water Commission have prepared a National Perspective Plan in 1980 for transfer of waters from surplus basins to deficit basins by inter-linking of rivers for optimum development of water resources of the country.

In 1982 National Water Development Agency (NWDA) was set up as an autonomous Society to study these link proposals and to carry out feasiblity studies. Further, Government of India has set up a "National Commission for Integrated Water Resources Development Plan" in September, 1996. One of its terms of reference is to suggest modalities for transfer of surplus water to water deficit basin by inter-linking of rivers.

Sardar Sarovar Project as National Project

1038. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Gujarat and Members of Parliament from the State from all parties have been demanding for the declaration of Sardar Sarovar Project as a National Project;

(b) if so, whether Government have considered the demand;

(c) if so, when this project is likely to be declared a National Project; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. There have been requests from the Chief Minister of Gujarat and also from Members of Parliament for declaring Sardar Sarovar Project as a "National Project." However, there is no decision of the Government to declare any project in irrigation sector as "National Project".

कृत्रिम भू-जल स्तर विकास योजना

1039. **श्री ओंकार सिंह लखावत:** क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) नौवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना में कृत्रिम भू-जल स्तर विकास योजना के क्रियान्वयन हेतु कितनी राशि निर्धारित की गई है;

(ख) क्या राजस्थान में अधिकांश क्षेत्र डार्क जोन एवं ग्रे जोन में आ जाने के कारण राज्य के उपर्युक्त योजना हेतु राशि आबंटित की जायेगी; यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) क्या सरकार इस योजना के अन्तर्गत लक्ष्य को समयबद्ध तरीके से अर्जित करने के लिए कोई विशेष कार्य योजना बना रही है?

कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सोमपाल): (क) नौवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना को अभी तक अंतिम रूप नहीं दिया गया है।

(ख) और (ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठते।

राजस्थान में त्वरित सिंचाई सुविधा कार्यक्रम

1040. **श्री ओंकार सिंह लखावत:** क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) त्वरित सिंचाई सुविधा कार्यक्रम (ए०आई०बी०पी०) के अन्तर्गत वित्तीय वर्ष 1998-99 के दौरान राजस्थान को कितनी राशि आबंटित करने का प्रस्ताव है और तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ख) नौवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना में इस कार्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत राजस्थान को कितनी धनराशि आबंटित की जायेगी; और

(ग) नौवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना में इस कार्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत धनराशि के राज्य-वार आबंटन संबंधी प्रस्ताव का ब्यौरा क्या है?

कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सोमपाल): (क) से (ग) त्वरित सिंचाई लाभ कार्यक्रम के अंतर्गत केन्द्रीय ऋण सहायता वार्षिक आधार पर दी जाती है और सामान्यत: आम बजट प्रस्तुत